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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : James Crawford Art Unit : 2141  
Serial No. : 09/597,784 Examiner : April L. Baugh  
Filed : June 19, 2000  
Title : DIRECT FILE TRANSFER BETWEEN SUBSCRIBERS OF A  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

**MAIL STOP AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Do Not Enter  
JDS 7/28/05

**REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 3, 2005**

Claims 1-40 and 45-64 are pending in this application with claims 1, 14, 29, 30, 31, 36 and 45 being independent.

Independent claims 1, 14, 29, 30, 31, 36, and 45, and dependent claims 2-13, 15-28, 32-35, 37-40, and 46-64, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hutton (U.S. Patent No. 6,513,066) in view of Haumont (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0097709).

Claims 1, 29, and 31 recite a method, apparatus, and computer program for transferring a file from a first client to a second client. Language from claim 1 is quoted below as exemplary. Incident to the claimed transfer, are limitations of “sending, through the communications system host, a request to the second client to establish a direct connection to the second client; [and] if a user of the second client accepts the request, establishing a direct connection to the second client that *bypasses the communications system host . . .*” (emphasis added.)

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 29, and 31 because neither Hutton, Haumont, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests the recited operation of sending, through the communications system host, a request to establish a direct connection with the second client and establishing a direct connection that *bypasses the communications system host* if a user of the second client accepts the request.

Hutton discloses a communications system 10 that includes a connection server 26, a first processing unit 12, and a second processing unit 22. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Hutton does not describe or suggest “if a user of the second client